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REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY China

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1950

SUBJECT Military; Political (Editorial)

DATE DIST. 4 Aug 1950

HOW
PUBLISHED Daily newspapers

NO. OF PAGES 2.

WHERE
PUBLISHED Hong KongDATE
PUBLISHED 9, 10 Jul 1950SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Chinese

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EDITORS DEBATE TAIWAN INVASION POSSIBILITY

TAIWAN MUST BE LIBERATED -- Hong Kong Wen-hui Pao, 9, 10 Jul 50

On 6 July 1950, Chou En-lai submitted a formal protest to the United Nations through Secretary General Lie against the US decision to send the Seventh Fleet into Taiwan waters. We, the Chinese, must stand firmly behind this protest and speedily liberate Taiwan from the KMT and the US reactionaries.

In the first place, Taiwan belongs to China. Speedy liberation of the island will not only permit us to carry out our plans to establish a greater nation, but will permit us to regain our economic equilibrium that much sooner. This will not only benefit China but will help to stabilize world peace.

The main reason why Bandit Chiang Kai-shek chose to make his last stand in Taiwan was not because he felt that it was the safest place for him and his reactionary elements, but because he realized that Taiwan fell within the US Far Eastern defense line. He believed that the US would eventually employ military power to prevent the island from falling into the hands of Communist forces, thereby saving him.

Geographically, Taiwan is located 100 miles or so from the China mainland. There are many who feel that the body of water separating the island from the mainland and our lack of naval power will make an invasion of the island by our military forces an extremely difficult task. We must remember, however, that our forces gained valuable experiences during the amphibious operations in the invasion of Hainan; our forces are now well prepared for any such task. It might be added, too, that the extended coast line of western Taiwan, which makes it almost impossible to put up any effective defense, is in our favor. Once a landing is effected, it will be very easy for our forces to disrupt the communications of Taiwan since all communications on the island run parallel to the western coast line.

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Although the Nationalist Army now defending the island is much larger than any that our forces have encountered in the past, it is well known that the morale of the KMT troops is very poor and it may be expected that they will not be able to put up any effective defense, once our troops make a landing. The Nationalists are boasting that they will be able to prevent any landing because of their naval and air superiority. The same boast was made prior to our invasion of Hainan; yet, it took our forces less than a month to liberate the island.

It can be seen from the above that an amphibious operation against the island would not be an impossible task for our troops. Our forces are determined to liberate the island. It may be expected that an invasion of the island will be launched by our forces soon. We, the Chinese, must exert every effort to support our forces to accomplish this task.

WILL THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS ATTACK TAIWAN -- Hong Kong Kung-shang Jih-pao,
10 Jul 50

The appearance of the US Seventh Fleet in Taiwan waters is leading to much speculation as to whether or not the Chinese Communists will launch their invasion of Taiwan. Generally, the following are representative of the various opinions on the matter:

1. The Chinese Communists will not attack Taiwan. During the past year, the Chinese Communists have been encountering many problems despite the fact that they have been boasting that an invasion of the island will be launched. The advent of the US fleet will increase the problems, making it impossible for the Communists to carry out their plans.

2. The Communists will invade Taiwan. Since the Chinese Communist authorities have been boasting that they will liberate Taiwan as soon as possible, postponement or abandonment of their promise will make them lose face; therefore they must carry out their plans. The liberation of Taiwan is one of the major tasks outlined for the Communist forces in 1950.

3. The Chinese Communists will study the new developments before making any definite decision. No drastic action will be taken by the CCP until after further military developments in Korea.

Of the above three, it appears that the third step seems the most logical solution for the Chinese Communists. However, one must not forget that the over-all strategy of the USSR is to involve the US in a war against the Chinese Communists. It is very possible that the Chinese Communists may soon be ordered by the Soviet authorities to launch an invasion of Taiwan against their wish, so as to divert part of the US military power in Taiwan waters. Only the future can tell what the Chinese Communists will do, but it will not be wrong to expect that some major moves will be made in the not too distant future.

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